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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1915

True Benevolence Exemplified

GRATEFUL and inspiring is the spirit of charity exemplified in the quick and generous response made to the call for relief sounded by the Times-Dispatch ten days ago, when the "Five Opportunities" in the form of five cases of suffering and want were presented. The total amount needed to meet these deserving cases was \$944. The contributions to the fund up to last Wednesday night amounted to \$292.70. The remainder was subscribed yesterday. The work of mercy is complete. Christmas will dawn brighter for those whose distress had been relieved and for the donors alike.

"And the greatest of these is charity."

The wedding bells in Washington rang a week ahead of the Christmas bells.

The Best Kind of Monument

IT will be a fine thing indeed if the Chicago admirers of the late Booker T. Washington carry out their project to purchase a building to be used as a social center and industrial training school for negro children, and to be called the Booker T. Washington Memorial.

No more enduring monument, nor one more fitting, more truly a memorial, could be raised to Washington than an institution in which the ideal he conceived and preached, taught and practiced might be put into practical effect. And so deep is this man's imprint upon his time that it may well be that all over the country similar institutions eventually will be founded to carry on his work. Then he will have built his own monuments.

Germany's revelation that the allies are beaten would be more convincing if the allies gave any evidence that they are.

What Can Be Done by Rural Banking

SOUTHERN bankers, especially those of Texas, did the country a great service in holding back a large part of the cotton crop of 1914 from sale and by establishing a new credit basis for the farmers of the cotton belt. Until last year the Southern farmers were far too much given to raising cotton alone without reference to foodstuffs and feed. The one-crop system is good when that crop is high, but very bad when it is low.

Cotton growers were faced last fall with the question of sacrificing their crops in order to pay the most imperative expenses. The government and the banking business generally opposed this ruinous policy; credit extensions were given and extended on food and feed crops, and cotton began to rise again. The South is once more prosperous, and is in a sounder agricultural condition generally than it has ever been. If wise banking has had much to do with bringing about these benefits, it can be seen what a great influence for good the rural credit system may be made.

The war in Europe has made a great change in the life in France. At one time a church building was considered a safe risk.

School Board Has a Head

ALTHOUGH it is hardly likely that a schoolboy can be brought to see it, even schoolteachers and school boards have hearts. Richmond's school authorities have demonstrated their kindness and their consideration for the feelings of youth in a manner that can hardly be commended too highly.

After generations of merely ordinary restraint, they have secured a regular trust officer, whose duty it will be to prevent that brave practice known as "playing hooky." Since December 15, this personification of authority has been working on the school grounds, but with a tender thoughtfulness that should reach even the adamant soul of a small boy. These authorities did not release the dread howl at once, nor did they wait until the end of the year. On the contrary, they immediately seized the psychological moment just at Christmas time, when nothing short of mumps or toothache could mar the ordinary boy's joyousness, and told their thoughts. The School Board has a heart.

The State Grange of Indiana favors plain dress for its members. The State Grange of Indiana has probably been told to attend to the cultivation of the papaw and mind its own business.

Von Papen's Defense Not Sufficient

NOW that Captain von Papen has left this country to fight openly with the German troops it would seem to be well to let him go without further comment on the principle that it isn't the decent thing to kick a man when he is down.

But his parting declaration protests his innocence of any wrongdoing so earnestly and with such outward embellishments of kindly feeling that there is danger of a change of sentiment among Americans in his favor. And this danger should be guarded against. Those who are likely to be misled by Von Papen's fair words and courteous phrases must remember that his recall, as well as Captain Boy-Ed's, was requested by this government only after months of investigation.

Too many evidences of the strict neutrality of the American government have been given

to justify the slightest doubt as to the fairness with which President Wilson and Secretary Lansing considered the cases of the German attaches. And the country should rest assured that, in asking their recall "on account of what this government considers their improper activities in military and naval matters," the President and his Secretary of State used the softer word, "improper," instead of the more accurate and harsher description, "pernicious."

In short, the departure of Captain von Papen and the approaching departure of Captain Boy-Ed have been made necessary, in the eyes of the officials entrusted with the conduct of this country's foreign affairs, by their own misconduct. They leave this country, not, as they contend, under pressure from the allies, but for this country's good.

Chicago is planning to get the Progressive National Convention. As it is to be the same old fight, that is where the Progressives should meet. And they should assemble at the same time that the G. O. P. is in session, in order that the hair-pulling may begin on equal terms.

Military and Congress

HOWEVER fiercely may rage the academic discussion of the old plan, brought again into prominence by the agitation for preparedness, to place the direction of military policies entirely in the hands of military men, it will remain academic. Unless there is a highly undesirable revolution in American sentiment, that surrender of the primacy of the civil power will not be made.

That the military shall in all cases be subordinate to civil authority is buttressed in the Constitution and even more than that—in the genius and tradition of this people. It is reflected in the constitutional provision that makes the President the commander-in-chief of the army and navy and in the statutes that establish civilian heads for the two departments. It is not in our scheme of things that the executive and legislative branches of the government shall have no more concern with the army and navy than to approve and supply the money for the projects of the general staffs. While this theory may be abandoned at some future time, in the face of some compelling necessity, it is safe to say that hardly anything of the future is much more unlikely.

In Washington, as dispatches to various newspapers now are recalling, there is considerable friction between Congress and the army and navy. Army and navy officers are wont to speak contemptuously of Congress and Congressmen, and these representatives have been known to return the compliment with compound interest. Judging from the performances of certain individuals of both species, it must be admitted that there is solid justification for both views.

No unprejudiced critic will say that Congress has done well for either army or navy. Both services have been to a large extent the football of sports politics. On the other hand, there are some officers who are not exactly intellectual giants, and whose military energies are directed principally to the acquisition and retention of soft and easy berths.

The row between Congress and military, however, has no real relation to the case, save as it may militate against the adoption of a sound and adequate policy of preparedness. That policy, while it should be guided by the ablest professional advice the President, Secretary of War and Congress can obtain, should take into consideration other factors than the exaggerated demands of the service experts. For one thing, it must consider where and how the money is to be obtained, an element that is never suffered to mar the perfect proportions of the strictly military equation.

A wake will be held in Chicago January 11 by the mourners of the Bull Moose for the purpose of seeing if the bones will conform to articulation, so as to warrant the skeleton being taken on the road during the summer and early fall season.

Last Word on Ancona Question

SO far as this government is concerned, the last word has been spoken in connection with the sinking of the Ancona. Unless Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note of December 19 contains an admission of the justice of the demands set forth in the note of December 6 and an indication of Austria-Hungary's intended compliance with them, a severance of friendly relations must follow.

As the note states, the details of the sinking of the Ancona are not essential; the circumstances admitted by the Austro-Hungarian government are sufficient to warrant an American demand for disavowal, reparation and punishment of the submarine's commander, who "willfully violated the recognized law of nations, and entirely disregarded those humane principles which every belligerent should observe in the conduct of war at sea."

Further debate is closed; the essential facts are within the knowledge of both nations; reasonable demands, based on those principles of humanity that have inspired this country's course throughout, have been made. There remains now compliance by Austria-Hungary and a continuance of friendly relations, or the only alternative, complete severance of all intercourse.

Although King George is able to sit up, as the cable informs us, it will undoubtedly be some time before he is again in the saddle.

Increasing Absurdity of Ford's Party

IT is rather a striking commentary on the Ford peace junket that one of the principal reasons assigned for the rumored abandonment of this modern Don Quixote's tour is the death of Lloyd M. Bingham—"official entertainer of the party." Mr. Bingham's death is regrettable, and in itself, of course, offers nothing of amusement. But that the death of any one man—an "entertainer" at that—should even affect an expedition planned to prevent the death of millions increases the absurdity of the whole windmill-tilting affair.

The hero worshipers are lauding Commander Fryberg, of the New Zealand contingent, for his great exploit on the Dardanelles. Wait until the war is over. We have seen how a naval hero in our own country made an ass of himself on so many occasions that his act in sinking a ship and going down with it was forgotten.

Colonel E. M. House will be the personal visiting representative of President Wilson to tell our envoys the inside of this government's attitude on foreign affairs, and to obtain from the envoys what they know about the inside of affairs at the courts to which they are accredited. Colonel House has the easy end of the job.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Ways of Reformers

How anxious certain good folks seem
We sinners, faults confessing,
Shall banish from our eyes each blemish
That seems to us a blessing;
But each reformer, you will note,
Hings on with zest to his own note.

They cannot view the cup that cheers
Without a burst of sorrow;
A good clear will cause their tears
To flow until the morrow;
But they will nurse some saintly vice
And vow to roast it is not nice.

Fair models of propriety—
In their own estimation—
Would lack the ancient Pluribus
Quite off the reservation,
Beat him with ease at his own game
And make him hang his head in shame.

They clamor madly all the time
That we shall ape their graces,
Rejecting joys of every clime
To follow in their paces,
But I'd be happy when I'd not
Be quite all that they are not.

Compliment From the Guide

Newcomer informed the Guide of Capitol Square that he had seen his wife on Broad Street. Newcomer added that she seemed to be a spy sort.

"Yes," replied the Guide, "when she hears of a bargain that's a cent lower than the regular price she kin git through her house cleanin' an' sit in the push quicker'n enny woman that lives in the block. But when I ast her to darn a sock she yawns about havin' no time in a manner that makes me have that tired feelin' which comes over a man when he realizes the mistake he made in not stayin' in the single blessedness class."

At the Outdoor Meeting

"You men do not remember when our sex was called the weaker vessel," said the suff. lecturer on the corner.

"I do," shouted a man who was out of the danger zone. "I got one of that kind. But she can get up a storm quicker than a dog can scratch himself, and weather it longer than any Dreadnought in the navy." Then he slunk away.

As they came out of the theater where there was a ballet Lynxeye remarked to his friend: "I feel sorry for those girls. They won't have anything to hang up for Christmas."

The time has come, if you didn't do it early, you'll have to do that shopping late.

A Red Cross seal on a bill doesn't act as a discount.

The Cub Gets a Pointer

"So you think of going to a school of journalism," asked the man on the desk, with his customary hauteur, of the cub reporter who "tender-d" his resignation.

"That is my intention," was the reply.

"Do you know the difference between getting a journalistic education and doing the stunts you have been trying to do?"

"I suppose there is a difference."

"Yes, there is. Since you have been here you have turned in an item every time some man in a back street whitewashed his fence. That was newspaper business. When you have taken a course in journalism you will be required to write paragraphs about every woman who has a bundle pup entered in a dog show. And you will probably be required to keep your shoes shined every day and wear a clean shirt collar. Beat it."

This One Has Paresis

Harking back to jokes that were, you may remember this that the landlord hung up: "If your gas goes out, take a feather out of the pillow; that's light enough for any room."

Shakespeare for Everybody

For the wise man:
"I've more than thou showest;
Speak less than thou knowest;
Lend less than thou owest."

For the man who thinks: "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."—Julius Caesar, iv, 3.

A Minute With the Cop

"That fellow is exceeding the limit. Why don't you stop him?" said the cit. to the cop on the Main Street crossing.

"Where is he going?"

"To Philadelphia."

"Well, that's the limit."

When She Said Yes

"I wish I were a man for a minute," said a woman in a Laurel Street car.

"For what?" asked her escort.

"So I could tell that man who is holding down that seat what I think of him."

"You couldn't do that in a minute."

"I told a man once what I thought in less than a minute, and it saved him from making a fool of himself."

Caught Up With the Procession

"There is quite a difference in many of the towns of the Far West between the way the citizens used to talk about them and the way they talk now. I was in one of those towns twenty-five years ago, and was shown a spot where a band of horse thieves was hung. I was in the same place recently, and had pointed out to me the palatial residence of a wealthy citizen who is now serving a term in State prison; he is the way a Richmond traveler put it in telling of his travels."

Again in Order

Though you broke, though you shattered
Last year's vows with a will,
The right to make new ones
Is reserved to you still.

Chats With Virginia Editors

Here is a case of inept rebellion. The Chase City Progress says: "No matter what the Attorney General says about it, it is still up to the people to say whether we shall issue bonds."

Just where it obtained its information we know not, but the Charlottesville Progress announces that "Hell's terrors are growing dimmer," and remarks: "One more thing to be thankful for these Christmas times." Can it be that the bees are dying out?

"This time next year," says the Bristol Herald-Courier, "the Virginia brethren who are in the habit of celebrating with John Barleycorn will be looking forward to a dry Christmas." Well, in the name of common sense, won't the Virginia brethren find it out soon enough?

Under the caption, "An Early Turn," the Richmond Times-Dispatch refers to the recent alleged hazing at the Virginia Military Institute, and says: "An ugly turn has been taken in the Virginia Military Institute matter if Paul Scott, the Washington and Lee student, who first reported the case, has left college because he was advised 'through fraternity channels' to leave Lexington." Norfolk has many strong

supporters of the Virginia Military Institute, but they no doubt are anxious to see the last vestige of hazing wiped out of the institution. There have been charges of hazing of a brutal character at the Virginia Military Institute for years, and at least some of them are true. The practice should be stopped. Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. And never be resumed.

The Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company has the greatest tonnage under construction of any shipbuilding company in the United States. That is the report sent out from Washington yesterday and published in the morning newspapers. Newport News is a leader in shipbuilding, and second to New York in exports. It is a town to be proud of. Newport News Times-Herald. And, indeed, all Virginia is mighty proud of her.

News of Fifty Years Ago

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 24, 1865.]

The first number of the Richmond Medical Journal made its appearance yesterday. It is a monthly magazine edited by Drs. E. S. Galliard and N. S. McChesney.

The robberies, house breakings, burglaries and street hold ups have become entirely too numerous in Richmond. Half or more of the local departments of the daily papers seem to be devoted to accounts of such events. It is to be hoped that the new police force will help to put a stop to these things. It seems that the military police are inadequate to the work. The right-thinking people are getting tired of it all, and unless the military police and the new civil police combined, can't do something for the benefit of the people, the people will soon take the matter in their own hands and then we may look for some hangings to lamp posts. That will settle it all.

The bold speech of Mr. Raymond in the United States House of Representatives in defense of the South and President Johnson's attitude are attracting much attention. Mr. Raymond is the first Republican to speak out for the South, and when he spoke in the House yesterday the radicals tried hard to break him down. Speaker Coffey left the chair and made it his business to try to rally all of the radicals, and one of the Washington papers calls his conduct disgraceful. Mr. Raymond's friends assert that the attempt to break him down is the signal for open war between the radicals of the Republican party and the conservatives of all the parties.

The State of Pennsylvania has asked Congress for a special appropriation of \$1,000,000 to pay the expenses of the State in repelling Confederate invasions, and yet before the war closed Pennsylvania boasted of its ability to take care of itself.

General Eppa Hunton, General W. H. Payne and Colonel John S. Mosby are all practicing law in Washington, and each is getting all of the business he can attend to.

A colored Maximo lodge, so called, has been established in Fredericksburg, the first of its kind to show up in Virginia.

Rev. J. T. Johnson, of Alexandria, without asking for it, has received unconditional pardon from President Johnson.

The Drakes Branch post-office in Charlotte County has been re-established. Mrs. Amelia A. Clark being made postmistress.

General Grant, in his report to the United States Senate, says that the Bureau is, in his opinion, a present necessity, but that the business of the same is being transacted too loosely and too extravagantly, being operated by different agents, according to their individual notions. General Howard, in his report promises a reform, especially in Virginia.

The name of Hon. Lewis D. Campbell, of Ohio, has been sent to the United States Senate as a suitable person to be minister to the Republic of Mexico. This is the first official recognition of Mexico as a republic.

The Voice of the People

Approves Articles On Thrift

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I just wanted to express to you my appreciation of the helpful little talks on thrift, Times-Dispatch. I read them to my boys and in the neighborhood of my home.

With one of my children I attended the meetings conducted by Mr. Straus in Festival Hall at the San Francisco Exposition. This fact of having seen him and knowing something of the aims of the society for thrift at first made me feel, of course, as an added influence in stimulating in the neighborhood of my home.

With best wishes for the continued success of this most worthy effort, I am, Sir, very respectfully,
E. H. MATTHEWSON.
Richmond, N. C., December 20, 1915.

All City's Poor Reached

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—The Community Christmas Tree is one of the great sources of beneficence Richmond has ever adopted. It might be termed the "Ways and Means of Benevolence and Cheer," reaching, as it does, in a general way, every child in the city, and dispensing cheer and happiness to thousands and at the same time opening an avenue through which the public at large can administer to every needy one of our city. Formerly, this work was done by Christian workers, who endeavored, as they could, to reach the "empty stockings" and needy poor and distribute among them what they could. In various ways in which they could, they made their stronger money and other contributions. In many cases some of the most needy, who were too proud to make known their destitute condition, were not reached, and therefore, did not share in this dispensation. But, presented as the cause is now, in the light of a "Christmas tree," it was never need allow their pride to deprive them of the benefits and cheer it dispenses.

Richmond, December 22, 1915. E. E. T.

Current Editorial Comment

Approved by Press and People

That the people and the press of this country are enthusiastic in their approval and delight in the note sent to Austria seems to admit of no question. Any citizen who has been fostered in the hearts of the people allies that pro-German sympathies would be stronger among American citizens than loyalty to their own land and their own people should by this time have become unrooted. The tolerance and the unwelcome opportunities afforded Germany by Austria by President Wilson and the consideration of a friendly nation do not seem to have been appreciated. It appears that our dignified and deliberate course has been mistaken for weakness, and how Austria could hope to bend words with us after the note which she has received is a little too difficult for the straightforward and clear-thinking Americans to understand.—Savannah Press.

Promotion Secretary Daniels takes the same view of seniority as a ground for promotion. In the United States Navy the Junior Paul Jones or Stephen Decatur would have taken a view analogous to that which Napoleon and Jackson and Lincoln took of seniority in an army. Made a matter of custom and traditions, it is calculated to produce dry rot. The secretary would promote for known efficiency of service, even though a man were every now and then jumped over the heads of other men. He may have most of the Austrians' influence against him, but the people understand what he means and approve his purpose. Midships graduating from Annapolis have taken each a number. That number has been regarded in promotion almost invariably. Minor punishments for delinquency have consisted in "losing fifty numbers." But other quantity of numbers. Seniority has been the rule. Men of moderate capacity, who did nothing to be court-martialed for, have gone on and up to be rear-admirals, not for good work done, but for failure to run athwart of certain standards. The plan of Secretary Daniels is indeed revolutionary. Nevertheless, it is a plan that should long ago have been adopted.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Annual Event

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the St. Joseph News-Press.

MYSTERIES OF NATURE AND SCIENCE

BY GARIETT P. SERVENS.

"What causes draft up a chimney? If atmospheric pressure is equal (about fifteen pounds to the square inch), at top and bottom of chimney how can draft occur? How is this atmospheric pressure obtained if we live on the outside of the earth?—H. E. B., Chicago."

It is the pressure that causes the draft. The air being heated at the bottom of the chimney expands, and thus becomes lighter, bulk for bulk, than air around and above it. The heated air resembles a cork held under water which is forced to rise by the pressure of the surrounding liquid, which is heavier, bulk for bulk, than the cork.

If you should put into a bowl a quantity of round beans, and on top of the beans a quantity of large lead shot of equal size, and then shake the bowl, you would find, after a time, that the shot were at the bottom and the beans on top. The explanation is that the pressure of the heavier lead forced water toward the bottom, forces the lighter beans upward.

In like manner the particles of water, being heavier than those of cork, force the water upward but more rapidly and uninterruptedly because the water particles are incomparably more free in their movements than the shot. In fact, the freedom of movement, so great among the particles of water that heated water acts almost exactly like the air in a chimney when a fire is started below.

The heated water expands and becomes lighter, while the cold air and heavier water presses upon it from all sides, thus causing it to stream upward.

You may ask why the heated air does not flow out at the bottom, but the chimney if it is pressure that makes it move. The reply is that the pressure is exerted from all sides, at bottom as well as at top. In fact, there is a slight superiority of pressure at the bottom, depending for its amount upon the height of the chimney. Fifteen pounds to the square inch is the mean or average pressure of the atmosphere at the earth's surface, but in proportion as we ascend the pressure gradually decreases.

Your final question is apparently based upon the idea that the atmosphere must be confined inside of something in order to be subjected to pressure. This would correspond with the notion that has sometimes been advanced that we are not living on the exterior of a globe, as we think, but

on the inner surface of a vast spherical shell! But there is no difficulty in comprehending the pressure of the atmosphere, even though the air lies on the surface of a globe, with open, unimpeded space all around it.

The atmospheric pressure is due to the same force which gives weight to solid bodies, viz: gravitation, or the attraction of the earth, which always acts in the direction of the earth's center.

The atmosphere consists of a certain quantity of oxygen, nitrogen and a few other invisible gases, mixed together in nearly fixed proportions. Every particle of these atmospheric gases is drawn toward the earth's center, and consequently has weight.

The weight of a single particle is almost infinitesimally small, but the combined weight of all the air particles composing the atmosphere is about one-millionth of the weight of the entire earth, or say 5,500 trillion tons. To ascertain this it is only necessary to multiply the number of square inches in the earth's surface by fifteen.

It thus forms a kind of gaseous ocean, enveloping the globe, and if it were compressed to the density of water this atmospheric ocean would have a depth of about thirty-four feet. But, unlike the ocean of water, the atmosphere has no absolutely definite and sharply defined surface. This arises from the difference in the constitution of liquids and gases.

The ultimate height of the atmosphere is not experimentally known, but at a height of 300 miles there is still enough air to inflame meteors rushing into it. Yet at that height it is incomparably rarer than the gaseous remnant left in the most perfect vacuum that we can produce.

Outside the atmosphere we suppose that no medium exists except the so-called luminiferous ether, which conveys the waves of light and other forms of radiant energy. But we can no more understand the real nature of ether than we can that of gravitation.

The supposition of the existence of an ether is essential to the explanations and speculations of science, but, in itself, it is a mystery to us. Apparently the ether offers no resistance to anything moving through it, or at least no resistance which we can detect and measure. For if it did, the atmosphere could not quietly revolve, as it does, with the earth, and continually and undisturbedly accompany the earth in its revolution around the sun and in its flight with the sun through interstellar space.

Nation's Golconda

In the space bounded by two square blocks in the downtown section of Manhattan Island is the Golconda of the nation, says the New York Evening Telegram. In fact, the famed city in the dominions of the Nizam of Tyderabad in the palmiest days of its historic past was the treasure house of the Maiden Lane of New York is the wonderful present. It would be more proper to call Golconda the Maiden Lane of India. There are to-day precious stones to the value of no less than \$50,000,000 in the secret and vaults of the Maiden Lane district, the gem center of the Western Hemisphere. They include the most perfect, the purest of diamonds, pearls, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and other gems, the best that Mother Earth has developed, because the wealthy, prosperous, discriminating family of Uncle Sam will have none but the best.

These gems mentioned in this treasure house of America represent gems only. The value of other jewelry would bring the total to more than double the amount.

Maiden Lane, so called because in the ancient days, when New York was but a village, Cupid shot his darts at the maids and youths who strolled along its grassy paths, since 1840 has been the home of the jewelers. It is not so many years ago when the narrow, sloping street was lined with the carriages of the wealthy who came to purchase jewels. Practically all of the retail jewelry trade then was centered in Maiden Lane. To-day there are only a few